

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01247 051107Z

12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 AF-10 EUR-25

SAM-01 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 118425

O R 051030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1708

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1247

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, US

SUBJ: ALLEGED US INTERVENTION IN ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT  
CRISIS

1. BBC JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ELKINS (US CITIZEN)  
STATEDIN SIX AM GMT NEWSCAST TODAY THAT MRS MEIR'S REVERSAL LAST  
EVENING OF HER MARCH 3 DECISION TO DISCONTINUE HER EFFORTS  
TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE RESULTED, INTERALIA, FROM  
URGINGS BY TOP US OFFICIALS WHO OPPOSE IDEA OF NATIONAL UNITY  
GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE LIKUD. ISRAELI PRESS RECENTLY HAS  
ALSO DESCRIBED USG AS OPPOSED TO NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT  
BECAUSE OF LIKUD'S HARD LINE ON ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT  
ISSUES.

2. IF THIS SUBJECT ARISES AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING, I RECOMMEND  
DEPARTMENT SEEK TO SHOOT DOWN NOTION THAT USG WOULD ATTEMPT  
TO INFLUENCE ISRAELI INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. IT IS TRUE THAT  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01247 051107Z

SOME ISRAELI POLITICIANS IN PAST HAVE USED THEIR US CONNECTION

TO GOOD POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN ISRAEL WITHOUT HARMFUL SIDE EFFECTS, INCLUDING MRS MEIR (SEE TEL AVIV 10437 NOTAL OF DEC 27). HOWEVER, THIS AT BEST IS VERY TRICKY BUSINESS BECAUSE OF ENDEMIC FEARS OF ISRAELI POPULATION ABOUT OUTSIDE PRESSURES ON GOI RE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES AND BECAUSE OF RECENT INCREASED OPPOSITION AND DECREASED GOVERNMENT STRENGTH WHICH CONCEIVABLY MIGHT DRASTICALLY CHANGE SITUATION HERE IN NEAR FUTURE. I BELIEVE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL HARM IN IT FOR US-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

3. TEXT FOLLOWS OF PERTINENT PORTION OF ELKINS' COMMENTARY. QUOTE MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT MRS MEIR WAS PERSUADED TO CHANGE HER MIND BY THE ENTREATIES OF LABOR ALIGNMENT LEADERS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PERSONALITIES WHO VISITED HER THROUGHOUT YESTERDAY, AND BY THE ADVICE OF MEMBERS OF HER IMMEDIATE FAMILY, HER SON, DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW. THESE CLOSE RELATIVES ARE SAID TO HAVE ARGUED THAT FOR MRS MEIR TO LEAVE THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP NOW WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO ACCEPTING DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISTAKES AND SHORTCOMINGS OF THE OCTOBER WAR; AND FINALLY IT IS NOT RULED OUT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER MAY HAVE BEEN URGED TO STAY ON IN HER POST BY TOP MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, WHO WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE HER PROPOSED LABOR-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT REPLACED BY A COALITION INCLUDING THE RIGHTWING OPPOSITION BLOC LIKUD, WHICH FOLLOWS A HARD LINE REGARDING THE ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT...UNQUOTE.  
KEATING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED US INTERVENTION IN ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT CRISIS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, IS, US, (MEIR, GOLDA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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